

## **TPB Staff Director's Report May through June 20, 2008**

The formal concentrated public involvement period was concluded on May 30, 2008. We continue to get requests for information and presentations that we honor as a part of the ongoing effort to communicate Concept 3 and the need for transit in the region. We are also working with the legislative staffs from our partner agencies to formulate a strategy for sharing the results of our survey and the vision and analysis of Concept 3 (see Agenda Item IV.2.A).

As has been previously communicated to you via email, we have had to amend our contract with JJ&G to reflect the additional resources we have obtained through the FTA section 5340 the grant dollars. These dollars have been allocated between the TPB operating budget (including staff salaries and benefits and TPB operations) and the consultant team based upon the work program and budget that the Board approved back in April. Because of our tight schedule and the need to complete our work by December of 2008, staff recommends that we amend the current contract with our existing consultant JJ&G rather than seek a new consultant team. The process to procure a new consultant would likely take two to three months and make our current schedule impossible to meet. The additional resources will add a total of \$672,000 (this amount includes the public opinion survey cost of \$139, 000) to the JJ&G contract bring their total contract to \$1,222,000. The new contract amount is in excess of \$1 million dollars requiring action by the GRTA Board (GRTA is TPB's administrative agent) to approve the amendment. The amendment was approved by the GRTA Board at their June 11, 2008 meeting. The agenda item from the GRTA Board meeting is attached to this report.

Some of you have been invited by MARTA to attend the meeting of the Funding and Governance Ad Hoc Committee of their Board. The meeting is being held on Friday June 20, 2008 at the MARTA headquarters. TPB Staff has been working with MARTA staff; providing to them the relevant materials we have developed on this issue. The MARTA Ad Hoc Committee has held three other such meetings and has met with MARTA's member governments to discuss the issue. The information and interchange with this group should help to illuminate the discussions the TPB will be having in our efforts to come up with a recommendation on governance for regional transit. The TPB Board working group on governance met June 9, 2008 to discuss two potential governance structures. A brief overview of that session and the points going forward from that meeting is included in Agenda Item IV.3.B.

Lastly, MARTA is hosting two public interchange sessions on June 23rd and June 24th in Gwinnett County to provide information to voters on regional transit. The voters in Gwinnett are considering ballot questions related to transit and funding in their July primaries. The TPB has been invited to participate and answer questions about Concept 3.

### **A summary of activities for May through June 20, 2008 includes the following:**

- Held monthly Sr. Staff and staff working committee meetings;
- Met with GRTA staff to discuss the documentation needed for the 5340 grant;
- Met with the Georgia Public Interest Research Group(PIRG) re: regional transit issues;

- Held follow up meeting from the Atlanta public forum with the Concerned Transit Riders, the Atlanta Jobs for Justice and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU Local 732) to investigate their concerns about Concept 3;
- Presented the TPB public survey results to the board of Get Georgia Moving, the Customer Development Committee of the MARTA Board, and the ARC Transportation Coordinating Committee ;
- Presented Concept 3 to the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce;
- Served as a panelist for an informational session on regional transit for the Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) annual conference held here in Atlanta;
- Discussed TPB's concept 3 with the Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities and the Rides for All Georgians;
- Met with MARTA Staff and consultants to discuss their comments on Concept 3;
- Met with North Fulton CID to discuss how to provide ongoing information on the survey and regional transit to their membership;
- Participated in a panel discussion on regional transit in Atlanta for the FTA Region 4 conference;
- Attended a stakeholder work session on the City of Atlanta's comprehensive transportation plan;
- Attended the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail and Commuter conference;
- Discussed Concept 3 to the monthly meeting of the National Federation of the Blind; Met with Vincent Martin (Atlanta VA rehabilitation R&D Center for Aging Veterans) and Kate Woodford to discuss making TPB materials more accessible to persons that are visually impaired;
- Presented information on how to procure a consultant to the National Transit Institute (NTI) class on Advanced Environmental Planning;
- Updated the Fulton County Commission about public input on Concept 3 and discussions on the regional transit governance; and
- Met with ULI staff and members to discuss the Community Action Grant award to the TPB.

**Activities in Progress:**

- Continued to investigate and refine potential regional transit governance;
- Continued to refine the regional transit financial plan to accompany the Vision (Concept 3) Plan effort;
- Continue efforts to analyze the public involvement comments and make revisions to Concept 3 ;
- Continue to support ongoing public involvement/information efforts;
- Initiate efforts on the ULI grant;
- Document the feedback from the public involvement program in a summary report;
- Document and analyze results from travel demand model runs of Concept 3;
- Develop and distribute a Podcast presentation of Concept 3;
- Initiate further assessment of the benefits and impacts of Concept 3;
- Develop outline for the TPB final report.